

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 9 and amend the claims as follows.

1. (Original) A stain blocking water borne coating composition comprising an organic binder and as stain blocking agent at least one type of inorganic nano- particles having a layered structure and a crystal structure with positively charged layers.

2. (Original) The stain blocking water borne coating composition according to claim 1, wherein the nano-particles are anionic clays or layered double hydroxide (LDH) salts.

3. (Currently Amended) The stain blocking water borne coating composition according to claim 2, wherein the layered double hydroxide (LDH) is selected from the group consisting of hydrotalcite, stichtite, pyroaurite, desautelsite, and sergeevite, ~~optionally modified with one or more dispersing agents.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The stain blocking water borne coating composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, comprising one or more water borne organic polymeric binders selected from the group consisting of acrylic and styrene-acrylic dispersions, vinyl acetate copolymer dispersions, alkyd emulsions, polyurethane dispersions, water borne hybrids between urethane and acrylic polymeric dispersions, and UV-curable water borne polymer dispersions.

5. (Currently Amended) The stain blocking water borne coating composition according to claim 1 ~~to 4~~, further comprising one or more components selected from the group consisting of emulsifiers, pigments, fillers, dispersants, coalescing agents, curing agents, thickeners, humectants, wetting agents, biocides, plasticisers, antifoaming agents, colourants, waxes, and antioxidants.

6. (Currently Amended) The stain blocking water borne coating composition according to claim 1 ~~to 5~~, which composition is a clear coat composition.

7. (Currently Amended) The stain blocking water borne coating composition according to claim 1 ~~to 6~~, further comprising at least 0.3 wt percent of a dispersing agent.

8. (Currently Amended) The stain blocking water borne coating composition according to ~~any one of claims 1-7~~ claim 1, wherein the total amount of inorganic nano-particles is 0.1-40% by weight, based on the total weight of the water borne coating composition, and wherein the total amount of ~~water borne organic polymeric binders~~ binder is ~~20-100~~ 4-80% by weight, based on the total weight of the water borne coating composition.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) A method for coating a substrate comprising water extractable staining agents wherein the substrate is coated with an organic water borne coating composition comprising at least one type of inorganic nano-particles as stain blocking agent.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the inorganic nano-particles comprise anionic clays, cationic clays and/or layered hydroxy salts (LHS).

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein substrate is coated with the stain blocking water borne coating composition according to claim 1 ~~to 8~~.

13. (Currently Amended) A coated substrate comprising water extractable staining agents obtainable by the method according to ~~claims~~ claim 10 ~~to 12~~.

14. (Original) The coated substrate according to claim 13, wherein the substrate is selected from the group consisting of a wooden, cementitious, metal, mineral and synthetic substrate, substrate made from processed wood, painted wood or primed wood.

15. (Original) Use of one or more types of inorganic nano-particles as stain blocking agent in an organic water borne coating composition.

16. (Original) Use according to claim 15, wherein the inorganic nano-particles comprise anionic clays, cationic clays and/or layered hydroxy salts (LHS).

17. (Original) Use according to claim 16, wherein the inorganic nano-particles comprise a layered double hydroxide (LDH).

18. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 17, wherein the layered double hydroxide (LDH) is selected from the group consisting of hydrotalcite, stichtite, pyroaurite, desautelsite, and sergeevite, ~~optionally modified with one or more dispersing agents.~~

19. (New) The stain blocking water borne coating composition according to claim 3, wherein the layered double hydroxide (LDH) is optionally modified with one or more dispersing agents.

20. (New) The coated substrate according to claim 14, wherein said substrate is a tannin-containing wooden substrate.

21. (New) The stain blocking water borne coating composition according to claim 18, wherein the layered double hydroxide (LDH) is optionally modified with one or more dispersing agents.